



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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CHANGES PROPOSED FOR HADDOCK AND COD FISHERIES

Notice of proposed changes in mesh regulations for trawl fishermen operating off the New England coast were carried in the Federal Register of May 30, according to Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ross L. Leffler. The regulations apply to what is officially known as Subarea 5.

Interested parties have 30 days in which to comment on the proposed changes, Secretary Leffler said.

Under existing regulations haddock fishermen must use nets with mesh no smaller than four and a half inches, but fishermen seeking other species who incidentally catch some haddock have in the past been exempt from the net regulations up to 5,000 pounds or 10 percent of the total catch per trip. Under the proposed regulations this exemption would be continued but the fishermen would have the alternative of operating under a new exemption which would allow them to take haddock not exceeding 10 percent of all trawl-caught fish taken during any one year.

It is also proposed to require cod fishermen to use nets with mesh no smaller than four and a half inches. The same exemption rules will apply to those who take cod incidentally with other catches.

These proposed changes have been recommended by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. The mesh regulations are for conservation purposes to permit the escape of small haddock and cod for possible capture later when they are of a more profitable size.

Persons wishing to comment on the proposed regulations may do so by writing to Commissioner Arnie J. Suomela, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington 25, D. C., within the 30-day period. Copies of the notice containing the complete text of the proposed regulations may be obtained by writing to Commissioner Suomela or to David R. Gascoyne, Regional Director, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, 59 Temple Place, Boston 11, Massachusetts.

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